

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Multilayer composite filter medium for serial filtration with an onflow side and an outflow side with respect to a medium to be filtered, the filter medium comprising at least two filter layers, wherein each layer of the at least two filter layers has a different respective filtering property of the same or different filter media and the at least two filter layers being welded to one another at defined regions ~~points and/or areas over the complete surface~~, and at least one filter ~~medium~~ layer of the at least two filter layers being arranged on the onflow side and at least one filter ~~medium~~ layer of the at least two filter layers being arranged on the outflow side.

2. (Currently Amended) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 1, wherein at least one filter layer comprises a woven filter fabric and at least one filter layer comprises a nonwoven mat.

3. (Original) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 1, wherein thermoplastic filter media are used.

4. (Currently Amended) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim ~~1~~, wherein the particle retention of the nonwoven filter mat is $>60\mu\text{m}$.

5. (Currently Amended) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim ~~1~~, wherein the particle retention of the woven filter fabric is 10 to $60\mu\text{m}$.

6. (Currently Amended) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 4~~2~~, wherein the nonwoven filter mat and the woven filter fabric comprise the same thermoplastic material.

7. (Currently Amended) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 1, wherein the regions ~~welding points or welding areas~~ make up 0.5 to 15% of a ~~the~~ surface of the composite filter medium.

8. (Currently Amended) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 1, wherein the regions ~~welding points~~ are arranged in the form of a grid on a ~~the~~ surface of the filter medium.

9-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Original) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 1, wherein the filter medium is located in engine oil filters, transmission oil filters, fuel filters or air filters.

14. (Original) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 1, wherein the multilayer filter medium is located in a filter.

15. (Original) Multilayer composite filter medium according to claim 1, wherein the filter medium has a flat or pocket-shaped or pleated form.

16. (New) A multilayer composite filter for serial filtration with an onflow side and an outflow side with respect to a fluid to be filtered, the composite filter comprising:

a first filter layer comprising a nonwoven mat, the first filter layer having a first edge, a first surface, and a second surface;

a second filter layer comprising a woven filter fabric, the second filter layer having a second edge, a third surface, and a fourth surface, the second surface being disposed against the third surface to form an interface, the interface being welded at a plurality of regions, wherein the first filter layer is arranged on the onflow side to filter coarser dirt particles relative to the second filter layer and the second filter layer being arranged on the outflow side to filter finer dirt particles relative to the first filter layer.

17. (New) The composite filter according to claim 16, wherein the first filter layer and the second filter layer are comprised of a thermoplastic media.

18. (New) The composite filter according to claim 17, wherein the first filter layer and the second filter layer are comprised of essentially the same thermoplastic media.

19. (New) The composite filter according to claim 17, wherein the first filter layer is comprised of a first thermoplastic media and the second filter layer is comprised of a second thermoplastic media, the first thermoplastic media and the second thermoplastic media having a similar melting point.

20. (New) The composite filter according to claim 16, wherein the particle retention size of the first filter layer is $>60\mu\text{m}$.

21. (New) The composite filter according to claim 16, wherein the particle retention size of the second filter layer is 10 to $60\mu\text{m}$.

22. (New) The composite filter according to claim 16, wherein the regions make up 0.5 to 15% of the interface.

23. (New) The composite filter according to claim 16, wherein the regions are arranged to form a grid within the interface.